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Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" With reference to the answer given to clause (d) of this question, may I ask the hon. the Minister for Development whether he is aware that one of the two candidates whom they have rejected has not appeared for the examination on account of his having suffered from typhoid fever? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I am not aware of that, Sir."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister for Development whether in certain cases stipends were not given to stipendiary students and that they were not therefore able to purchase the necessary books and to study for the examination and that as a result of this they failed in the examination? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It is a news to me. I should like to have notice of the question."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Administration Reports.

Administration reports of departments under the hon. the Member for Revenue.

2305 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to specify—

(a) the various reports of the administration of the departments under his control published by Government ;

(b) in which months the several reports for the years 1921-22, 1922-23, 1924-25, or for 1922, 1923 and 1924 (according to the financial or calendar year) were published ;

(c) what the causes there were for the delay, if any of them were published more than six months after the year of report ;

(d) whether attempts have been made to publish the several reports for the previous year at least a month before the budget estimates are placed before the Council ; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement ^a is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2316.

Irrigation (Minor Works).

Water-supply in Anantapur district.

2306 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government, the Collector and other authorities that the people in Anantapur district have

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solely to depend on the wells in their tank-beds for water-supply during the summer and that the orders of the revenue authorities issued for filling up the wells and levying penalty for not filling up the wells as ordered might be cancelled; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter to find out the actual state of things and modify the Standing Orders where the wells in tank-beds are the main or the only sources of water-supply to the people?

A.—(a) A representation to that effect has been received by Government.

(b) The matter is receiving the attention of Government.

Land Revenue.

Reduction in the scale of ground-rent.

2307 Q.—Mr. N. DEVENDRUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether local authorities have suggested to him that the scale of ground-rent is very high when compared with market value; and

(b) whether he intends to move for a reduction of the scale of ground-rent of porambokes in municipal areas to the scale published in Board's Standing Order No. 24?

A.—The questions are not understood. By market value of land is usually meant the price land will realize if sold subject to a given rate of ground rent. The higher the rate of ground rent therefore the less the market value is likely to be and vice versa. No complaints on the subject have been received from local authorities.

Forests.

Grant of manure leaves to ryots in North Arcot district.

2308 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of allowing green manure leaves being granted to ryots at the rate of 6 annas per cart load from reserves in the district of North Arcot, has been disposed of; . . .

(b) if so, how;

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay;

(d) the names of the members of the committee, if any, appointed to report on the matter and whether the committee examined any ryots; and

(e) if the committee has sent in its report, whether it will be laid on the table of this House?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter has not yet been disposed of.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Conservator of Forests on the enquiry held by the District Forest Officer, South Vellore, on the subject. The names of persons to be consulted are not known as the District Forest Officer has not yet completed his enquiry.

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Supply of hay for the Military Department.

2309 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of hay required by the Military Department from the forests of the Bellary district for the year 1925-26, together with the names of the forests concerned;

(b) the total quantity actually obtained from the forests referred to above; and

(c) if the actual quantity is in excess of that needed by the department, how the difference was disposed of and by whom?

A.—The names of reserves in which the Military Grass Farms Department exploited grass, were given in the statement appended to the answer to clauses (b) and (c) of Legislative Council Question No. 1488 put by the hon. Member and answered on 2nd March 1926. The Government have no information on other points.

Administration Report.

Administration reports of departments under the hon. the Law Member.

2310 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to specify—

(a) the various reports of the administration of the departments under his control published by Government;

(b) in which months the several reports for the years 1921-22, 1922-23, 1924-25, or for 1922, 1923 and 1924 (according to the financial or calendar year) were published;

(c) what the causes there were for the delay, if any of them were published more than six months after the year of report;

(d) whether attempts have been made to publish the several reports for the previous year at least a month before the budget estimates are placed before the Council; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement^a is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 2316.

Irrigation.

Waterfall at Bajpae.

2311 Q.—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the use of the waterfall at Bajpae near Mangalore is regulated by any rules made by local officers or any local authority;

(b) what precautions are taken for ensuring that the springs and the course of the water are kept clean;

(c) whether any special baths have been constructed for men and women separately;

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(d) whether the water from the waterfall is used for irrigation purpose and whether there are any rules regulating the use of the water for that purpose; and

(e) whether there are sufficient number of bungalows and rest-houses for accommodating those who visit the waterfall and what the annual income from them is?

A.—The Government have no information.

Local Boards.

Utilization of grants for water-supply.

2312 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any local boards have applied for permission to utilize next year the special grants made for village water-supply, in view of the impracticability of carrying out those works in an efficient manner in the current year; and

(b) if so, which local boards have done so and what orders have been passed in each case?

A.—(a) & (b) In view of the representations received from a number of local boards the Government have now reallocated to all local boards the unspent balances of the grants sanctioned to them during 1925–26 for the improvement of village communications and of the water-supply in rural areas.

Utilization of grants for village roads, etc.

2313 Q.—Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any local boards have applied for permission to utilize next year the special grants made for the village roads, in view of the impracticability of carrying out those works in an efficient manner in the current year; and

(b) if so, which local boards have done so, and what orders have been passed in each case?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 2312.

Classification of the Bantwal-Charmudi road as a trunk road.

2314 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the debate in this Council on 26th March 1926 on the question of treating the Bantwal-Charmudi road as a trunk road will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a committee has been appointed to consider the question, and if not, when it will be appointed; and

(b) whether a representation has been received from several coffee planters and merchants of South Kanara on the subject, and if so, what action Government have taken or are going to take thereon?

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A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes; the representation will be placed before the Committee.

Village Fairs.

Change of the day of the village fair, Monnupeedika village.

2315 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received a representation of January 1926 from Rev. F. Mathew, Vicar of the Parish Church of Vallappad, Ponnani taluk, Malabar district, in connexion with the prayer of the Christians of the village of Monnupeedika for the change of the day of the village fair from Sunday to some other day;

(b) whether Government have ordered an enquiry into the matter as requested by that priest; and

(c) if so, with what results?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The remarks of the President, Taluk Board, and the President, District Board, were called for and considered.

(c) It was reported that the market day was changed from Monday to Sunday in April 1924 at the request of the public, that there were not many Christians in the neighbourhood and that even they had not made any representation in the matter since March 1924. In the circumstances the Government did not consider it necessary to interfere.

Administration Reports.

Administration reports of departments under the hon. the Minister for Education.

2316 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to specify—

(a) the various reports of the administration of the departments under his control published by Government;

(b) in which months the several reports for the years 1921–22, 1922–23, 1924–25, or for 1922, 1923 and 1924 (according to the financial or calendar year) were published;

(c) what the causes there were for the delay, if any of them were published more than six months after the year of report;

(d) whether attempts have been made to publish the several reports for the previous year at least a month before the budget estimates are placed before the Council; and

(e) what steps are being taken to ensure earlier publication of the reports?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement is appended.

(c), (d) & (e) The time taken for the preparation and publication of a report depends to a large extent on the size and contents thereof. In the case of major departments, such as Revenue,

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Education, Police, Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice, Jails, etc., the statistical and other information required for the preparation of the report has to be collected from a large number of subordinate officers. To enable Heads of Departments to do this, sufficient time in some cases extending to about six months after the close of the year to which the report relates has to be allowed. The statements have to be consolidated and the report has to be prepared and printed before submission to Government. All this necessarily takes time. Every endeavour is being made to bring out the reports as expeditiously as possible without sacrificing accuracy and completeness.

Public Works.

Strength of Assistant Engineers in the Madras Engineering Service.

2317 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the sanctioned strength of the Assistant Engineers, Madras Engineering Service, before the last retrenchment;

(b) the same after retrenchment;

(c) the number of vacancies in it, which have not yet been permanently filled up;

(d) the number of officiating Assistant Engineers at present in the service;

(e) the number of Assistant Engineers who have been officiating for over three years;

(f) whether the Government have under consideration proposals to increase the present sanctioned strength of Assistant Engineers and if so, to what extent; and

(g) whether the increments hitherto given to the officiating Assistant Engineers have been stopped and if so, when and for what reasons?

A.—(a) 106.

(b) 75, which has since been increased to 76.

(c) 11.

(d) 64.

(e) The Government have no information on the point.

(f) Yes; to increase the strength from 76 to 77 to provide for a Subdivisional officer for the new River Conservancy division.

(g) Government have not issued any orders to the effect.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary then laid on the table—

(a) Copies of the proceedings ^a of the first and second meetings of the Finance Committee for 1926–1927 held on the 11th and 16th July 1926, respectively;

(b) G.O. No. 866 ^b, dated 14th June 1926, recording the accounts of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for the quarter ending 31st December 1925.

^a Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 99–125 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix IX on pages 125–136 infra.